

*Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.*



State of  
California



Department of Toxic  
Substances Control

# Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, November 2004

## Cleanup Plan Proposed for the existing Bear River High School

The Nevada Joint Union High School District is working on an expansion of the Bear River High School located at 11130 Magnolia Road, Grass Valley, California. During the site investigation for the proposed expansion, arsenic and lead contaminated soil were found (**see aerial photo on page two**). When levels are found above the established standards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires school districts to clean up the soil to a safe level before continuing with the school expansion.

The school district has proposed a cleanup plan to remove the contaminated soil from the site. We encourage you to review and comment on the plan. The proposed cleanup plan, called a Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW), is also available for your review at the information repositories listed on page four. If you have questions about this site, please contact Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-3577 or e-mail [Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov).

### This fact sheet will provide you:

- History and background of the site
- Findings of the investigation
- Options for cleaning the site (Draft RAW)
- Proposed activities during the cleanup
- Impact of the California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps

### Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft RAW and the California Environmental Quality Act, Notice of Exemption (NOE). DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning **November 19, 2004** and ending **December 21, 2004**. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5 p.m. on December 21, 2004. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 or e-mail [Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov)



### History and background of the site

The Nevada Joint Union High School District (NJUHSD) is adding a Performing Arts Center and an Aquatics Center to the existing Bear River High School. As part of the expansion, NJUHSD is using existing parcels that were already acquired by the District. Prior to construction of the high school, the Winchester Gun Club used a portion of the site as a skeet range from the mid-1960's to mid 1970's.

### Findings of the investigation

Back in June 2003, an environmental investigation was conducted to determine the areas for the expansion of the Performing Arts Center and Aquatic Center. The site chosen for the Performing Arts Center indicated lead levels as high as 880 parts per million (ppm). Prior to the construction of the high school, the Winchester Gun Club used a portion of the site as a skeet range in the mid-1960's to mid-1970's. It is likely that lead contamination came from the old skeet range. In light of the lead findings, the District conducted an Interim Remedial Action. While School was not in session, soil was temporarily stockpiled in a remote area behind the tennis courts. The stockpile is approximately 968 cubic yards of lead contaminated soil. An Aquatics Complex is also planned at the current location of the basketball courts area. Arsenic contamination was found three feet below ground surface underneath the basketball courts. It is likely the arsenic contaminated soil is naturally occurring. Arsenic levels were detected at the

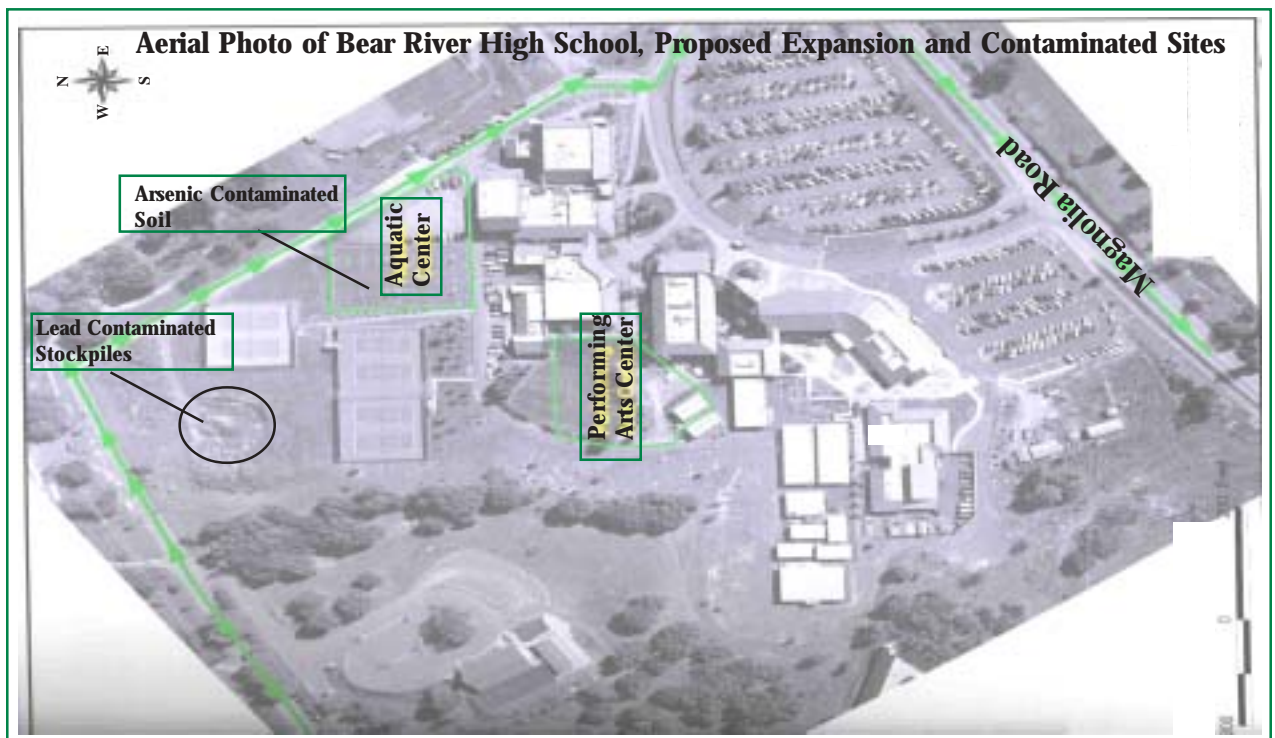
highest level of 520 ppm. DTSC has recommended removing any arsenic contaminated soil higher than 10 ppm.

Children can get lead in their bodies from eating lead-based paint chips or from playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys and reproductive system. Children can get arsenic in their bodies through eating foods, drinking water, or breathing air containing arsenic. However, there is no current exposure to the arsenic because it was found three feet below ground surface. Although, the arsenic is below ground surface, DTSC has recommended a removal.

Because the elevated levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment, DTSC recommends the soil be removed before expanding the site.

### Options for cleaning the site (Draft RAW)

The primary objective of the Draft RAW is to conduct a removal action to prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. A Draft RAW summarizes previous studies, outlines available cleanup activities and proposes removal options. In addition to cleanup methods, a Draft RAW identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement and cost.



Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the proposed cleanup activities, we will review and consider the comments received during the 30-day public comment period.

#### **Proposed cleanup method**

- Remove approximately 330 cubic yards (18 truckloads) of arsenic contaminated soil and approximately 968 cubic yards (54 truckloads) of lead contamination soil
- Transport contaminated soil, using a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor, to a State-licensed disposal facility
- Backfill with clean imported soil, if necessary

#### **Cleanup activity**

If the plan is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities for approximately 10 days:

- Personnel using standard backhoe machinery and safety gear
- Stockpiled contaminated soil on site
- Stockpiles covered with tarps to protect them from wind and rain
- Covered trucks removing soil from the site to a State-licensed landfill
- Airborne dust monitoring

#### **Fencing**

The areas where the digging will occur will be secured using existing fence where possible and temporary fencing or barriers so that unauthorized personnel cannot enter the work area.

#### **Truck route**

A variety of truck types will be used to deliver and remove supplies and materials from the site on an as needed basis. Trucks will travel between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Trucks exiting the site will:

- Leave the site going west on Magnolia Road, then proceed northbound on Highway 49
- Exit at Highway 49, then merge onto Route 20 traveling westbound



*Example of a backhoe at work*

- Route 20 will merge onto southbound Route 70/65
- From Route 70/65, the truck will exit the Forty Mile/Ostrom Road and proceed to the Norcal Waste Systems Ostrom Road Landfill.

#### **Dust suppression**

Control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Airborne dust monitoring will ensure that efforts to reduce dust are working. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned and soil loads will be covered with tarps so that soil will not spill out of the trucks while they are on the road.

#### **Impact of the California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption**

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment or human health because of the relatively small volume of soil, the short duration of the cleanup, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken away for disposal.

### **Next steps**

More sampling will be conducted after the cleanup to verify that the contaminated soil has been properly removed and that the site is safe for the school.

Anyone who submitted comments regarding the cleanup activities will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document includes all of the comments we received about the Draft RAW, the cleanup activities and the NOE during the 30-day public comment period. It will also provide DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of "The Response to Comments" will be placed in the information repository.

### **For More Information**

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the Draft RAW, please contact Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-3577.

For questions regarding the public participation process, contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651.

For media questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Gray, DTSC Public Information Officer at (916) 324-0936.

### **Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

## **Information Repositories**

**The Draft RAW and NOE can be reviewed at the following locations:**

Bear River High School  
11130 Magnolia Road  
Grass Valley, California 95949-8366  
(530) 268-3700

Nevada Joint Union High School District  
11645 Ridge Road  
Grass Valley, California 95945  
(530) 273-3351

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

File Room:  
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
By appointment only (916) 255-3758